

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO USDOC WASHDC
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AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

UNCLAS MOSCOW 8809

FOR BEWT/TPD

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: BEXP UR
SUBJECT: PROPOSED GEO-MINERAL TSS

REFS: (A) MOSCOW 7766, (B) USDOC 10945, (C) MOSCOW 3645,
(D) USDOC 9733

1. REF (A) DRAFTED ON CLEAR UNDERSTANDING IN USCO THAT PROPOSED EVENT WOULD CONSIST OF TECHNICAL SEMINAR SESSIONS OUTSIDE MOSCOW AND SEMINAR/MINI-EXHIBIT IN COMMERCIAL OFFICE. HOWEVER, DIFFICULTY OF ARRANGING FOR LECTURE HALLS LARGE ENOUGH TO ACCOMMODATE AUDIENCE FOR TYPICAL TSS OUTSIDE OF MOSCOW SHOULD NOT BE UNDERRATED. OUR EXPERIENCE PLANNING FOR "CONTAINER '77" IN LENINGRAD (MOSCOW 3645) CONFIRMS THIS AND SUGGESTS THAT ONLY MEANS OF SECURING LECTURE HALL FOR TSS RPT TSS MAY BE TO RECONFIGURE AN EXHIBIT PAVILION. (USE OF TERM "EXHIBIT PAVILION" HERE AND IN PARAGRAPHS 2 AND 9 OF REF (A) SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN AS AN INDICATION OF CONFUSION ON OUR PART REGARDING NATURE OF TSS OUTSIDE OF MOSCOW.)

2. TO CLARIFY OUR POSITION ONCE MORE ON QUESTION OF BEWT
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ADVANCE OFFICERS FOR TECHNICAL SALES SEMINAR (TSS) EVENTS IN USSR, WE NOTE THAT EASE OF ARRANGING THINGS IN SOVIET UNION CANNOT BE COMPARED TO THAT OF ANY WESTERN -- NOR, FOR THAT MATTER, EASTERN -- EUROPEAN COUNTRY. MOST GROUND WORK FOR ANY TSS OUTSIDE OF MOSCOW WOULD HAVE TO BE BEGUN MUCH EARLIER THAN THE EIGHT WEEKS NOTED IN AO/COORDINATOR GUIDELINES CONTAINED PARA 2, USDOC 9733. THUS, INORDINATE TIME REQUIRED

FOR EFFECTIVE ADVANCE WORK IN USSR RENDERS IDEA OF BEWT/AO
TOTALLY UNECONOMIC, UNLESS MORE THAN ONE ROUND TRIP
FROM U.S. WOULD BE CONTEMPLATED. AS REGARDS
INVOLVEMENT OF USCO OFFICER, STATEMENT IN PARA 2, USDOC
9733, TO EFFECT THAT "NO USCO STAFF MEMBER NEED LEAVE
MOSCOW" FAILS TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT FIRM EMBASSY PROSCRIPTION
AGAINST U.S.G. OFFICIALS TRAVELLING ALONE IN SOVIET UNION.
UNLESS BEWT/AO CAME ALONG WITH SPOUSE OR COULD FIND AND
AMERICAN STAFF MEMBER FROM ANOTHER SECTION IN EMBASSY
WILLING TO ACCOMPANY HIM OR HER, BURDEN WOULD
FALL ON USCO TO PROVIDE TRAVEL COMPANION.
IN THIS (LIKELY) EVENTUALITY, WE FAIL TO SEE WHERE
PRESENCE OF BEWT/AO WOULD BE IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTING
FACTOR TO SUCCESSFUL STAGING OF TSS OUTSIDE MOSCOW. FOR
REASONS OF ECONOMY, THEREFORE, AND TO AVOID BREAKS IN
ADMINISTRATIVE CONTINUITY WHICH WOULD OCCUR IF BEWT/AO TRIED TO
PICK UP THREADS EIGHT WEEKS BEFORE EVENT, WE STAND BY OUR
JUDGMENT IN PARA (11,) REFTEL (A). (EVEN UNDER THESE
CONDITIONS, HOWEVER, OUR CAVEAT EXPRESSING MISGIVINGS
ABOUT COST BENEFICIALITY OF TSS IN TASHKENT OR NOVOSIBIRSK
SHOULD BE BORNE IN MIND).

3. IF BEWT DEEMS IT APPROPRIATE AND USEFUL, PERHAPS
THOUGHT COULD BE GIVEN TO ASSIGNING RUSSIAN-LANGUAGE
TDAD OFFICER TO TRAVEL IN WITH FIRM REPRESENTATIVES AT
TIME OF EVENT ITSELF TO SERVE AS BEWT "CHAIRMAN" INSTEAD
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OF AS ADVANCE OFFICER/COORDINATOR.
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